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## CAVE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK

July 22, 23 & 24, 2006

Spend three unique and intensive days at Carlsbad Caverns National Park with cave photographer Peter Jones of **Shot in the Dark Cave Photography**. Visitors to Carlsbad Caverns often find their best efforts at photography to be an exercise in frustration with disappointing results. In this workshop you will learn through hands-on experience how to capture the best images of this spectacular underground world.



The workshop is open to photographers of all skill levels, however it will become increasingly technical and physically strenuous as it progresses. The regular three-day workshop is limited to 10 participants at a cost \$300 for the full three days. In addition, there will be a one-day Workshop Special Offer for those who wish to take only the first day of the class for a fee of \$125. The Workshop Special Offer class is limited to an additional 10 participants and is for that first-day class only. The full three-day class is expected to fill up rapidly, so send in your registration form early if you wish to take the full class.

Although we will cover point and shoot cameras briefly, a basic understanding of shutter speed and aperture settings is a necessity. Your camera should be fully manually adjustable. You will also need a tripod, a built-in or attachable flash unit for your camera and a suggested cable release. Flash and slave units will be provided by the instructor.

**Day One** will begin early with a two-hour lecture in the Park's Visitors Center on the basics of cave photography: personal safety and protection of the cave resource, film and digital cameras, lighting, accessories, what to expect, pitfalls to avoid (appropriate in a cave!) and the myriad techniques of creating a great image in the dark. We will then enter the Natural Entrance of the cave and take several shots along the corridor

leading to The Big Room, 750 feet below. A one-hour break for lunch will be followed by more photography in The Big Room at predetermined locations.



**Day Two** will begin with another one-hour lecture in the Visitors Center on flash photography, single vs multi-flash, slave units, working with digital cameras and layering of images. We will take the elevator into the cave and spend the morning in The Left Hand Tunnel, an off-trail area, using flashes to provide illumination. After a one-hour lunch break, we will enter Lower Cave to spend the remainder of the day photographing in the passages below. We will be wearing hardhats for this portion of the trip and boots with non-marking soles are required. Although not terribly strenuous, there is a handline and ladder downclimb for entry to Lower Cave. Examples of digital images taken in the cave will be illustrated on a laptop computer.



**Day Three** is the most strenuous. We will meet at the parking lot in the mouth of Slaughter Canyon at an early hour to make the one-hour hike up to the entrance of Slaughter Canyon Cave. The entire day will be spent photographing this spectacular cave with its numerous huge and bizarre formations as well as the historical guano mining operation. We will be using lots of flashes with slaves and will explore layering of multiple images in Photoshop to build a composite finished image. Participants in the full three-day workshop will receive a free copy of the CD "On Three: A Guide to Digital Photography for Cavers". This CD, produced by renowned photographer John Woods, is full of well-illustrated examples of digital photography techniques in caves. It has a 45 image gallery of cave photographs by instructor Peter Jones. Other participants may buy this CD for a small fee.

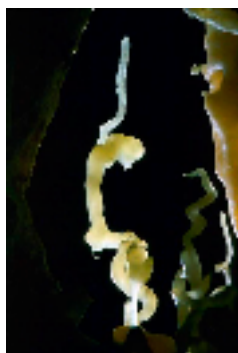
Weather permitting, we will meet again at the entrance of the cave for the bat flight program on the first night of the workshop. Although flash photography is not allowed, we will meet at least an hour before the flight program begins to discuss capturing this magnificent exodus of bats from the mouth of the cave on camera.



The fees for the workshop do not include food, lodging or transportation costs. You must provide these for yourself. There is no lodging or camping in Carlsbad Caverns National Park itself. There is lodging and camping available at the entrance to the Park in White's City or a wider choice of facilities twenty miles to the north in the city of Carlsbad. Camping is also available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park about 25 miles to the south. Reservations are suggested for any of these places during this busy time of year. Be sure to allow plenty of time for transportation to and from your lodging as we will begin promptly at the appointed times.

This workshop will cover a lot of material in a very short time. It is recommended that you bring along a tape recorder for the early-morning lectures. A tripod and a fully manually-adjustable camera are a necessity for cave photography. A cable release is strongly recommended as well. You may use either a film or a digital camera (or both) as aspects of each will be discussed and used during the workshop. You may bring your own flash systems for use at a later time in the cave, but for the purposes of the workshop, we will be using only the lighting provided by the instructor to avoid complications within the limited trail space and time available.

The use of Photoshop techniques will be discussed and illustrated as they apply to manipulating images, but the workshop will be directed more towards camera techniques as they apply to cave photography in particular. Come prepared to learn a lot over the course of your participation.



For further information and to [register](#), please contact the **Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association** at Carlsbad Caverns National Park at 505-785-2486.

At the Park's website at: <http://www.nps.gov/cave/>

Or by e-mail at: [hsingleton@ccgma.org](mailto:hsingleton@ccgma.org)

You may also contact the instructor, Peter Jones, at his e-mail address of **pjcaver@zwi.net**, visit his website at **www.pjcaver.com** or call at **207-236-6112**.